

It is a good day for Liberty.

Italian Firearms Group has produced a version of the Howdah pistol. The original Howdah pistol was created in India nearly two centuries ago. Tiger hunters were worried about their quarry getting in close where rifles were hard to bring to bear. The Howdah was a large bore double-barreled pistol. This reproduction is .45LC/.410. This is a smaller caliber than the traditional Howdah, but then tiger hunting is rare these days. One then asks if this is another solution in search of a problem? The company invokes the memory of the "Auto-Burglar" gun, a sawed-off shotgun marketed for personal protection. The current incarnation has a rifled barrel and so is not a sawed-off shotgun. It is a smaller bore than the Auto-Burglar. Still, its intimidation value cannot be underestimated. Would it work in self-defense? Of course. With the .45 LC or the proper .410 shot size it would work. It is large for a two-shot gun. Large helps intimidation. It is small for a double-barreled shotgun. There is no perfect firearm. Finally, it is hard not to want one.

The usual suspects tell us that we don't need guns we only need to stay in "safe" areas. Perhaps a "Gun Free Zone" because that works out so well. I remember hearing of a German U-Boat infiltrating the British naval base at Scapa Flow in Scotland. It torpedoed a battleship killing two-thirds of the crew. If a guarded naval base cannot be made safe there is no safe place.

The Missouri Valley Arms Collector's Association has been generous to us in the past. It is time to return the favor. They have paid off their IRS debt but are struggling to keep their gunshows going. They had to give up the Winter National Show years ago. They gave up their one-day gunshows this Spring. The fate of the Summer show depends on how much they make this July. The one-day shows were canceled because they lost money on them. If they can get a low-cost venue they may come back. The Summer National Show is part museum and part the most varied gun store in the state. It is worth attending just for the variety of guns. We need to make sure the Summer Show is a success. It will be on 28-30 July, 2017 at the KCI Center. Tell your neighbors, tell your friends. Post it at your range and gun club. They were there for us. We need to be there for them.

I have received calls from people whose apartment building had recently been posted "no guns." The question is how they could get to their apartment. By renting an apartment the tenant gets a property interest in his apartment. A property interest presumes an access to the apartment. There has been no case on this point in Missouri. Texas has reported a case *Chiarini v State* 407 S.W.3d 922 (Tx App 2014) and in the Court of Criminal Appeals at 442 S.W.3d 318. The defendant was charged with carrying a gun openly in his condominium. The Texas court said that he did not commit a crime because he was on his own property. According to the condominium bylaws he had an ownership interest in the common areas. The Texas court said that this was different from a rental agreement. I do not agree that it was different. When this comes up in Missouri I shall at least have something to work with. Of course, if one signs a lease agreeing to no guns one is stuck with it. The right to contract is also in the Constitution. This is different from public housing. Public housing agencies across the country have declared themselves "no guns" and imposed this on the residents. They have been losing these cases everywhere. That does not prevent them from continuing to impose unconstitutional rules on people who have no choice. This arrogant attitude is grounds for a lawsuit. Take money from them and it will get their minds right.

Kansas City rules for taxi drivers prohibits them from having any sort of weapon. Being a taxi driver is one of the most dangerous occupations in America. This can be overturned if we can get a taxi driver to sue. The cab driver does not have to be an American citizen. Uber prohibits drivers and passengers from possessing guns. It is a private company and can make its own rules. I can make my own choices for rented transportation.

Larry Swickard reports being stalked by a mountain lion while on one of his hikes in eastern Jackson County. Larry has never struck me as being that tasty but I'm sure that mountain lions have their own standards.

I see that Canada has 100 tornadoes a year, while we have 1,000. I expect the usual suspects to credit Canadian gun control or health scheme.

I continue to hear that the U.S. needs a "single payer" health system. No one ever says who this "single payer" is. This area is out of my field, but I would like to know in advance. Don't like surprises.

Stacy Washington, an African-American female journalist wrote opinion pieces for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. She was recently fired after writing a column in defense of the NRA. The tabloid's excuse was that she had appeared on NRA news. This was presented as something she had concealed. It is hard to conceal being on a news program and she had been quite open about it.

A high school girl accused three illegal immigrants of rape. The defendants claimed that it was consensual sex. Their attorney repeated their defense in response to the prosecutor's press conference. The defense attorney later appeared on the Tucker Carlson program and repeated this defense. Mr. Carlson was appalled and wondered about the effect of such a statement on the attorney's immortal soul. He acted as if questioning the veracity of the victim of a horrible crime was a crime in and of itself. Mr. Carlson does not seem to understand the function of a defense lawyer. We are to defend everyone and question everything. Later evidence indicated that the sex might have been consensual after all and the rape charges were dropped. In criminal law people lie all the time, for profit, for advantage, for press coverage and out of habit.

A man in Flagstaff Arizona was forced to shoot a mob of drunken frat boys, one was killed. At trial the prosecutor claimed that the shooter never claimed self defense until he "had an audience at the police station." That was a lie. Video showed the shooter thanking the police for saving him, begging them to help the wounded, and stating that he thought he was going to die. The judge had excluded these videos as "prejudicial." The judge eventually granted the defense motion for mistrial. I have seen this dishonesty before. I began my career thinking we had a system of justice. No more.

I write this on 15 May, Police Officer Memorial Day. For us this is every day.

Congress is awash with investigations. Some investigations are desperately trying to determine if there is something that needs investigation. It is easier to investigate than to actually do something.

The legislature defeated a bill to require non-profit groups, like us, to disclose the names of their members. We are likely to see this bill again. It does not matter. We will never give up the names of our members.

The "Gun Court" bill was defeated, in part thanks to your protests. We are likely to see it again.

We shall overcome.